

CHAMBERS *English* STUDENTS' DICTIONARY

钱伯斯 学生英语词典

外语教学与研究出版社
Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

Prentice Hall, Inc.

CHAMBERS

Students'
DICTIONARY

钱伯斯
学生英语词典

Editors

Sandra Anderson

Kay Cullen



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Chambers English Students' Dictionary

钱伯斯学生英语词典

编写: Sandra Anderson Kay Cullen

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外语教学与研究出版社

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INTRODUCTION

Chambers Students' Dictionary is a dictionary for lower intermediate students who have already started to learn English and who need help in widening their English vocabulary and their knowledge of how to use the English language.

It is the aim of this dictionary actively to teach and guide, as well as to be an accurate reference for words and their meanings. Special help in avoiding common errors and pitfalls is given in tinted boxes, and extra help – with grammar, spelling rules and several other topics – is given in the appendix section at the back of the book.

The following guide shows how an entry in this dictionary is arranged.

Pronunciation is shown for each headword using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Words connected with the headword
The part that you put the heavy 'stress' or 'accent' on has the mark ' before it.

If the pronunciation of a word is in any way difficult, then pronunciation is given using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Grammatical use or part of speech
The way a word is used is shown by a label:
n = noun *v* = verb
ns = nouns *prep* = preposition
adj = adjective *pron* = pronoun
adv = adverb

Plurals The plural of a word is given if it is formed in an unusual way, or is difficult to remember.

Meanings If a word has several meanings, these are separately numbered.

Examples To make the meaning clearer, there is very often an example showing the word being used. Examples are supported by the British National Corpus, a 100-million-word database of current English.

allergy /'ælədʒi/ *n* something in your body or skin that makes certain foods or materials disagree with you: *She has an allergy to fish.*
al'lergic *adj* affected in a bad way by certain things: *He is allergic to milk*

allege /ə'ledʒ/ *v* to say something without proof: *The lady alleged that he had stolen her handbag.* **allegation** /ə'lə'geɪʃən/ *n*.

alike /ə'laɪk/ *adj* like one another; similar: *Twins are often very alike.* — *adv* in the same way: *He treated all his children alike.*

basis /'beɪsɪs/, plural **bases** /'beɪsɪz/, *n* 1 something on which a thing rests or depends: *This idea is the basis of my argument.* 2 the

all /ɔ:l/ *adj, pron* 1 the whole: *He ate all the cake; Did you eat it all?* 2 every one: *They were all present; All men are equal.* 3 everything; the only thing: *She told me all she knew; All I want is a bit of peace.* — *adv* 1 completely: *all alone; dressed all in white.* 2 much; even: *I feel all the better for a shower.* 3 for each side: *The score is five all.*

Arrangement of words In many cases a headword is followed by a group of words and phrases that are connected with it.

alert /ə'leɪt/ *adj* **1** quick-thinking: *She's old but still very alert.* **2** watchful and aware: *You must be alert to danger.* — *n* a signal to be ready for action. — *v* to make someone alert; to warn: *The alarm alerted us to the fire.* **a'lertly** *adv.* **a'lertness** *n.*
on the alert watchful: *He was on the alert for any strange sound.*

Some words are given without definitions or examples, if their meaning is clear.

accurate /'ækjʊrət/ *adj* **1** exactly right: *an accurate drawing.* **2** making no mistakes: *an accurate memory.* **accuracy** *n.* **accurately** *adv.*

Some words are shown only in a particular phrase, because this is the way they are normally used.

aback /ə'bak/: **taken aback** surprised and rather upset: *She was clearly taken aback at the suggestion.*

When two or more words have the same spelling, they are numbered.

bay¹ /beɪ/ *n* a wide inward bend in the coast: *Ships were anchored in the bay.*
bay² /beɪ/ *n* an area which has a particular purpose in a building: *a factory loading bay; a parking bay.*

Tinted boxes give extra help with words that are especially difficult to use, extra information, the parts of irregular verbs, and opposites.

A **battle** is a fight between armies, lasting a short time.
A **war** is a period of armed fighting between nations, that can last several years.

The words 'see' and 'see also' tell you to look at another word in the dictionary where more information is given.

See **disembark**.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Key to the phonetic symbols used in the dictionary:

Consonants

p	/pi:/	pea
t	/ti:/	tea
k	/ki:/	key
b	/bi:/	bee
d	/daɪ/	dye
g	/gaɪ/	guy
m	/mi:/	me
n	/n ju:/	new
ŋ	/sɒŋ/	song
θ	/θɪn/	thin
ð	/ðen/	then
f	/fan/	fan
v	/van/	van
s	/si:/	see
z	/zu:m/	zoom
ʃ	/ʃi:/	she
ʒ	/beɪʒ/	beige
tʃ	/i:tʃ/	each
dʒ	/ɛdʒ/	edge
h	/hat/	hat
l	/lei/	lay
r	/rei/	ray
j	/jes/	yes
w	/wei/	way

Vowels

Short vowels

ɪ	/bɪd/	bid
ɛ	/bɛd/	bed
æ	/bæd/	bad
ʌ	/bʌd/	bud
ɒ	/pɒt/	pot
ʊ	/pʊt/	put
ə	/ə'baʊt/	about

Long vowels

i:	/bi:d/	bead
ɑ:	/hɑ:m/	harm
ɔ:	/ɔ:l/	all
u:	/bu:t/	boot
ɜ:	/bɜ:d/	bird

Diphthongs

eɪ	/beɪ/	bay
aɪ	/baɪ/	buy
ɔɪ	/boɪ/	boy
aʊ	/haʊ/	how
oʊ	/goʊ/	go
ɪə	/bɪə(r)/	beer
eə	/beə(r)/	bare
ʊə	/puə(r)/	poor

Notes

1. The stress mark (') is placed before the stressed syllable on both phonetics and nested bold items (eg **bonnet** /'bɒnɪt/ and **bookcase**).

2. The symbol '(r)' is used to represent *r* when it comes at the end of a word, to indicate that it is pronounced when followed by a vowel (as in the phrase *four or five* /fɔ:r ɔ: 'faɪv/).

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A

A or **a** /eɪ/. plural **As** or **a's**. *n* the best grade that can be given for an essay or exam: *She got three As in history last term.*

a /eɪ/ or /ə/ or **an** /ən/ or **an** /ən/ *adj* **1** one: *a cup of coffee and two teas, please; a million dollars.* **2** any; every: *An owl can see in the dark.* **3** one of a group or class of people or things: *She wants to be a doctor.* **4** for each: *We earn £6 an hour.*

a is used before words beginning with **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u**: *an apron; an officer*; also before **h** when **h** is not sounded: *an hour*. **a** is used before all other letters: *a book; a house*; also before **u** when its sound is /ju:/: *a union*.

aback /ə'bak/ *adj* **aback** surprised and rather upset: *She was clearly taken aback at the suggestion.*

abacus /'abəkəs/, plural **'abacuses**, *n* a frame with rows of sliding beads that are used for counting: *The teacher is showing the children how to count with an abacus.*

abandon /ə'bandən/ *v* **1** to leave something behind on purpose: *They abandoned the stolen car.* **2** to give up an idea etc: *They abandoned the plan.* **a'bandonment** *n*.

abashed /ə'baʃt/ *adj* shy; embarrassed.

abate /ə'beɪt/ *v* to become less: *The storm abated.*

abattoir /'abatwa:(r)/ *n* a place where animals are killed for food.

abbess /'abes/ *n* the female head of an abbey.

abbey /'abɪ/ *n* **1** the building in which a Christian group of monks or nuns lives. **2** the church belonging to it.

abbot /'abət/ *n* the male head of an abbey.

abbreviate /ə'brɪ:vɪet/ *v* to shorten a word, name etc.

abbrevi'ation *n* a shortened form of a word etc: *Maths is an abbreviation of mathematics.*

abdicate /'abdɪkeɪt/ *v* to give up the position of king or queen: *The king abdicated (the throne) in favour of his son.* **abdi'cation** *n*.

abdomen /'abdəmən/ *n* the part of the body between the chest and the hips. **abdominal** /əb'dɒmɪnəl/ *adj*.

abduct /əb'dʌkt/ *v* to take someone away against their will by trickery or violence. **ab'duction** *n*.

abhor /əb'hɔ:(r)/ *v* to hate very much. **abhorrence** /əb'hɔ:rəns/ *n*.

abhorrent /əb'hɔ:rənt/ *adj* horrible.

abide /ə'baɪd/ *v* to put up with; to bear: *I can't abide noise.*

abide by to obey: *You must abide by the rules.*

ability /ə'bɪlɪtɪ/ *n* **1** the power, strength or knowledge to do something: *Small babies don't have the ability to walk.* **2** a skill or talent: *She showed remarkable ability as an organizer.* *a person of unusual abilities.*

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ *adj* on fire: *The building was ablaze.*

able /'eɪbəl/ *adj* **1** having enough strength or knowledge or time to do something: *He was able to open the door; He will come if he is able.* **2** clever and skilful; good at your job: *a very able government minister.* **ably** /'eɪblɪ/ *adv*.

abnormal /əb'nɔ:məl/ *adj* strange; not normal: *Rainfall of more than 100 inches per year isn't abnormal in this part of Scotland.*

abnor'mality *n*. **ab'normally** *adv*.

aboard /ə'bɔ:d/ *adv*, *prep* on or onto, in or into a ship, train, bus or aircraft: *He went aboard the aeroplane; We remained aboard after the ship docked.*

abode /ə'boʊd/ *n* an old word for a house or the place where someone lives: *The poor old man had no fixed abode and lived on the streets.*

abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ *v* to put an end to a custom, law etc. **abolition** *n*.

aboriginal /əbə'rɪdʒɪnəl/ *n* a native of a country, especially of Australia. — *adj*.

abort /ə'bɔ:t/ *v* to lose a baby before birth, or stop a baby being born.

a'bortion *n* an operation to stop a baby being born.

a'bortive *adj* unsuccessful.

abound /ə'baʊnd/ *v* to be very plentiful.

about /ə'baʊt/ *prep* **1** on the subject of: *We talked about our plans; What is the book about?* **2** around; in: *Toys were lying about the room; She is somewhere about the house.* **3** connected with an activity, a place or a person's character: *What do you like best about school?; There's something very strange about her.* — *adv* **1** nearly; roughly; around: *about five miles away; about six*

o'clock; just about big enough. 2 in different directions; here and there: The children ran about; Clothes were scattered about. 3 present in a place: It was dark and there was nobody about.

about *to go to: I am about to leave.*

about turn or **about face** a command to turn to face in the opposite direction.

above /ə'baʊ/ *prep 1 over; higher up than: a picture above the fireplace. 2 greater than: The rainfall is above average. — adv 1 higher up: The noise seemed to be coming from above; a student in the year above. 2 earlier in a text: Study the questions above carefully before writing your answers.*

See **over**.

above all most importantly: *He is strong, brave and, above all, honest.*

above-board /ə'bɔ:bd/ open and honest.

abrasion /ə'breɪʒən/ *n* a scrape or scratch, especially on the skin.

abrasive *adj 1* very unpleasant and annoying: *I don't like the way he talks to me — he is always so abrasive. 2* making surfaces rough when rubbed on them: *An abrasive cleaner will damage the polished table top.*

abreast /ə'brest/ *adv* side by side: *They walked along the road three abreast.*

keep abreast of to keep up with.

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/ *v* to make a book etc shorter.

abridged *adj. a* **bridgement** *n.*

abroad /ə'brɔ:əd/ *adv* in or to another country:

He lived abroad for many years.

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/ *adj 1* sudden; unexpected: *The arrival of the police brought the party to an abrupt end. 2* rude or sharp in the way you speak: *an abrupt manner. a* **bruptly** *adv. a* **bruptness** *n.*

abscess /'absəs/ or /'absɜ:/ *n* a painful swelling, containing pus.

abscond /ə'b'skɒnd/ *v* to escape or run away: *He absconded from police custody.*

absent /'absənt/ *adj* away; not present: *Johnny was absent from school with a cold.*

The opposite of **absent** is **present**.

'absence *n* being away: *He returned home after an absence of two years; Nobody noticed her absence.*

absentee /'absən'ti:/ *n* a person who is absent.

absent-minded *adj* forgetful: *an absent-minded professor.*

absolute /'æbsəlu:t/ or /'æbsəlju:t/ *adj* complete: *absolute honesty.*

'absolutely *adv 1* completely: *It is absolutely impossible for me to go. 2* a word used to agree completely: *'It was a wonderful film, wasn't it?' 'Absolutely!'*

absolution /'absə'lu:ʃən/ *n* forgiveness.

absolve /əb'zɒlv/ *v* to forgive; to pardon.

absorb /əb'zɔ:b/ *v 1* to soak up: *The earth absorbs the rain. 2* to take up a person's attention.

absorbent *adj* able to soak up: *absorbent paper.*

absorption /əb'zɔ:psən/ *n.*

The noun **absorption** is spelt with a **p**.

abstain /əb'steɪn/ *v 1* to decide not to vote in an election etc. *2* to keep away from, or not do something, especially something you want to do: *to abstain from alcohol.*

abstention /əb'stenʃən/ *n* not voting for or against something: *There were six votes for the motion, four against it and two abstentions.*

abstract /'æbstrakt/ *adj* existing only as an idea, not as a real thing. — *n* a summary of a book etc.

in the abstract in theory and not in practice: *She understands how to drive a car in the abstract but still needs lots of practice before she takes her test.*

absurd /əb'sɜ:d/ *adj* very silly. **ab'surdity**, **ab'surdness** *ns. ab'surdly* *adv.*

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/ *n* a large amount: *an abundance of food; There was food in abundance.*

a'bundant *adj* plentiful. **a'bundantly** *adv.*

abuse *v 1* /ə'bju:z/ to use wrongly: *He was accused of abusing his power. 2* to insult or speak roughly to: *She was abused by a hostile crowd. 3* to treat cruelly: *They had been beaten and abused. — n 1* /ə'bju:z/ insults: *verbal abuse; to shout abuse at someone. 2* cruelty: *She suffered years of abuse from her husband. 3* the wrong use of something: *drug abuse.*

a'busive *adj* using insulting words.

abysmal /ə'bɪzmə/ *adj* very bad: *For them, it was an abysmal result. a* **bysmally** *adv.*

abyss /ə'bɪs/ *n* a very deep or bottomless hole.

academy /ə'kadəmi/ *n* a college for special study.

academic /ə'kædemɪk/ *adj 1* having to do with study in schools, colleges etc: *the academic year. 2* connected with study and thinking, not practical skills: *He enjoyed drawing and painting more than the academic subjects. — aca'demically* *adv.*

accede /æk'si:d/ **accede to** to agree to.

accede to the throne to become king or queen: *She acceded to the throne in 1952.*

accelerate /æk'seləreɪt/ **v** to increase speed.

acceleration *n.*

accelerator *n* a pedal, lever *etc* by which speed is increased.

accent *n* /'æksənt/ **1** the sounding of part of a word extra strongly: *In 'banana', the accent is on the second syllable.* **2** a mark used to show the pronunciation of a letter: *You can put an accent on the e in début.* **3** a special way of pronouncing words in a particular area *etc*: *an American accent.* — **v** /æk'sent/ to pronounce with stress or emphasis.

accentuate /æk'sentʃueɪt/ **v** to emphasize: *This colour accentuates her blue eyes.* **accentuation** *n.*

accept /æk'sept/ **v** **1** to take something offered: *He accepted the gift.* **2** to believe in or agree to: *We accept your explanation of what happened.* *Their proposal was accepted.* **3** to say 'yes' to an invitation: *She invited me to tea and I accepted.* **4** to decide that a person is suitable for a course: *She has been accepted by the university to study English.*

Please **accept** (not **except**) this gift.

acceptable *adj* **1** satisfactory. **2** pleasing.

acceptably *adv.*

The opposite of **acceptable** is **unacceptable**.

acceptance *n.*

access /'ækses/ *n* way of entry: *We gained access to the house through a window.*

accessible *adj* able to be reached easily.

accession /æk'sɛʃən/ *n* coming to the position of king or queen: *the Queen's accession to the throne.*

accessory /æk'sesəri/ *n* something additional or extra.

accident /'æksɪdənt/ *n* **1** an unexpected happening, especially an unpleasant one in which people are hurt: *There has been a road accident.* **2** chance: *I met her by accident.*

accidental *adj* happening by chance.

accidentally *adv.*

acclaim /ə'kleɪm/ **v** to praise or welcome: *The footballer was acclaimed by the fans.* — *n* praise.

acclamation /æk'læ'meɪʃən/ *n* noisy agreement or praise.

acclimatize /ə'klaɪmətaɪz/ **v** to make or become accustomed to a place or thing:

You'll be able to find your way around once you've acclimatized. **acclimatization** *n.*

accommodate /ə'kɒmədeɪt/ **v** **1** to provide a person with a place to stay: *The conference delegates will be accommodated in hotels.* **2** to be big enough for: *The house will accommodate two families.*

accommodate has two **cs** and two **ms**.

accommodating *adj* helpful.

accommodation *n* rooms in a house or hotel in which to stay.

accommodation has no plural.

accompany /ə'kʌmpəni/ **v** **1** to go with someone or something: *He accompanied her to school.* **2** to play music for a singer or solo instrument *etc*: *He accompanied her on the piano.* **accompaniment** *n.*

accomplice /ə'kʌmplɪs/ or /ə'kɒmplɪs/ *n* a person who helps another, especially in crime.

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ or /ə'kɒmplɪʃ/ **v** to complete something successfully: *Have you accomplished your task?*

accomplished *adj* good at something: *an accomplished singer.*

accomplishment *n* **1** completing; finishing. **2** a special skill.

accord /ə'kɔ:d/ **v** **1** to agree with. **2** to give.

accordance: **in accordance with** in agreement with; according to.

accordingly *adv* **1** in a suitable way. **2** therefore.

according to **1** as said or told by someone: *According to John, the bank closes at 3 p.m.*

2 in agreement with something: *He acted according to his promise.* **3** in the order of: *books arranged according to their subjects.* **4** as is right for: *You will be paid according to the amount of work you have done.*

of your own accord of your own free will: *He did it of his own accord, without being forced to.*

accordion /ə'kɔ:diən/ *n* a musical instrument with keys like a piano, that you play by squeezing.

accost /ə'kɒst/ **v** to stop someone and speak to them: *He accosted me in the street.*

account /ə'kaʊnt/ *n* **1** a description or explanation of something that has happened: *He wrote an interesting account of his holiday in New Zealand.* **2** an arrangement by which a person keeps his money in a bank; the amount of money he has in the bank: *she has only £50 left in her account.* **3** an arrange-

ment with a shop *etc* by which a person can pay at the end of each month for all the things he buys during the month. **4** a statement of money that is owed: a bill.

See **bank**².

ac'countable *adj* responsible.

ac'countancy *n* the work of an accountant.

ac'countant *n* someone whose job is to look after money accounts.

ac'counts *n* written records of money received and spent.

account for to give a reason for; to explain: *I cannot account for the mistake.*

by all accounts according to what everyone says.

on account of because of: *She stayed indoors on account of the bad weather.*

on no account or **not on any account** not for any reason: *You must not on any account, go out alone at night; On no account should you enter the room without knocking.*

take into account or **take account of** consider something when making a decision.

accumulate /ə'kju:mjələt/ *v* to gather or be gathered together in a large quantity: *Rubbish accumulates very quickly in our house.* **ac'cumulation** *n*.

accurate /ə'kjorət/ *adj* 1 exactly right: *an accurate drawing.* 2 making no mistakes: *an accurate memory.* **'accuracy** *n*. **'accurately** *adv*.

The opposite of **accurate** is **inaccurate**.

accuse /ə'kju:z/ *v* to tell someone that you know or think they have done something wrong: *They accused him of stealing the car.* **accu'sation** *n*.

the accused the person or people accused in a court of law.

accustom /ə'kastəm/ *v* to make someone used to something: *He soon accustomed himself to his new life.*

ac'customed *adj* usual: *his accustomed seat.*

accustomed to used to: *I am not accustomed to being treated like this.*

ace /eis/ *n* 1 the one in playing-cards: *the ace of spades.* 2 a person who is expert at anything: *He's an ace at shooting with a rifle.* 3 a serve in tennis that the other player cannot hit back.

ache /eik/ *n* a continuous pain: *I have an ache in my stomach.* — *v* to be in continuous pain: *My tooth aches.*

achieve /ə'tʃi:v/ *v* to gain; to reach suc-

cessfully: *He has achieved his ambition.* **a'chievement** *n*.

acid /'asid/ *adj* 1 sharp or sour in taste: *Lemons and limes are acid fruits.* 2 rather sharp or unkind in the way you speak. — *n* a sour substance that can burn the skin.

acid house a style of dance music with a repetitive beat.

acid rain rain that contains harmful acids released into the air by cars and factories: *Acid rain is responsible for the destruction of many acres of forest land.*

a'cidity *n* sourness.

acknowledge /ə'knoʊlɪdʒ/ *v* 1 to admit; to agree that something is true: *He acknowledged that I was right.* 2 to say thank-you to someone for something, or to let them know you have received it: *He acknowledged my letter.* **ac'knowledgement** *n*.

acne /'akni/ *n* a skin disease with spots and pimples on the face, chest and back: *Acne is common among teenagers.*

acoustics /ə'kustiks/ *n plural* the qualities of a room or hall that make hearing in it good or bad: *The acoustics of the new concert hall are very good.* **a'coustic** *adj*.

acquaint /ə'kwent/ *v* to make someone know something well: *to acquaint yourself with the rules.*

ac'quaintance *n* 1 a person whom you know. 2 knowledge. 3 a friendship.

acquainted with friendly or familiar with: *I'm not acquainted with her father.*

acquire /ə'kwair(r)/ *v* to get: *He acquired a knowledge of English.*

acquisition /ə'kwɪzɪʃən/ *n* 1 getting: *Some people are only interested in the acquisition of wealth.* 2 something got; a new possession.

acquit /ə'kwɪt/ *v* to declare innocent: *The judge acquitted her of murder.* **ac'quittal** *n*.

acquitting and acquitted are spelt with two ts.

acre /'eikə(r)/ *n* a measure of land equal to 4840 square yards or 4047 square metres: *24 acres of forest.*

acrobat /'akrəbat/ *n* a person in a circus *etc* who performs gymnastics. **acro'batic** *adj*.

acro'batics *n* gymnastics.

across /ə'kros/ *prep* 1 to the other side of something; from one side to the other side of something: *He took her across the road.* 2 at the other side of something: *The butcher's shop is across the street.* — *adv* to the other side: *If the road is busy, don't run across.*

use **across** or **over** for moving to the other side of something flat: *walk across the road.*

use **over** when something is high: *climb over the wall.*

acrylic /ə'krɪlɪk/ *n* a man-made material often used instead of wool. — *adj*: an acrylic sweater.

act /akt/ *v* **1** to do something: *Don't wait -- act now!* **2** to behave: *He acted foolishly.* **3** to perform a part in a play: *Would you like to act the part of the witch?* — *n* **1** something done: *Running away is a cowardly act.* **2** a section of a play: *a play with two acts.* **3** an entertainment: *a comedy act.*

a stupid **act** or a stupid **action**, but only an **act** (not **action**) of stupidity.

act as to do the work or duties of: *Mrs Brown will act as headmistress till I return.*

act for to take the place of someone else and do their duties: *She is acting for the headmaster in his absence.*

act on **1** to obey: *I acted on his instructions.* **2** to have an effect on something.

in the act at the exact moment of doing something: *He was caught in the act of stealing my car.*

put on an act to pretend: *I thought she had hurt herself but she was only putting on an act.*

acting /'aktɪŋ/ *n* performing in plays and films. — *adj* temporary: *I am the acting manager while Mr. Ross is on holiday.*

action /'ækʃən/ *n* **1** something done: *a foolish action; Take action immediately; The firemen are ready to go into action.* **2** movement: *Tennis needs a good wrist action.* **3** a battle; fighting: *He was killed in action.* **4** the events in a story: *Most of the action takes place in India.*

in action working: *Is your machine still in action?*

out of action not working: *My car's out of action this week.*

active /'æktɪv/ *adj* **1** lively; able to work etc: *At seventy, he's no longer very active.* **2** busy: *She is an active member of the club.* **3** causing an effect: *an active force.* **4** likely to erupt: *active volcanoes.* **5** a verb is called **active** when its subject performs the action of the verb: *The dog bit the man.*

See **passive**.

activate /'æktɪveɪt/ *v* to make something

start working: *The smoke activated the fire alarm.*

activity *n* **1** the state of being active or lively: *The school is full of activity this morning.*

The opposite of **activity**¹ is **inactivity**.

2 something you do as a hobby or as part of your job: *His activities include fishing and golf.*

actor /'æktə(r)/ *n* a performer in a play or film: *He wanted to go on the stage, so he joined a troupe of actors.*

actress /'æktɪs/ *n* a female performer in a play or film.

actual /'æktʃʊəl/ *adj* real: *In actual fact he is not as stupid as you think.*

actuality /'æktʃʊəli/ *n* reality.

'actually *adv* **1** really: *She actually saw the accident happen.* **2** in fact: *Actually, I'm doing something else this evening.*

acupuncture /'ækjupʌŋktʃə(r)/ *n* a method of treating illnesses or pain by sticking needles into the patient's skin at certain points.

acute /ə'kjʊ:t/ *adj* **1** very bad but not lasting very long: *an acute pain.* **2** very great: *There is an acute shortage of teachers.* **3** quick at understanding. **4** less than a right angle: *An angle of 45° is an acute angle.* **a'cutely** *adv.* **a'cuteness** *n.*

ad /əd/ short for **advertisement**.

adapt /ə'dæpt/ *v* to change or alter so as to fit a different situation etc: *She has adapted the play for television; Children adapt quickly to new surroundings.* **adapt'ation** *n.*

a'daptable *adj* willing or able to change to fit in with different circumstances.

a'daptor *n* a kind of electrical plug for connecting a plug of one type to a socket of a different type, or several plugs to one socket.

add /əd/ *v* **1** to put one thing with another: *He added water to his drink.* **2** to find the total of various numbers: *Add 7, 9 and 21 together; Add 124 to 356; He added up the figures.* **3** to say something extra: *He added that he was sorry.*

add on to include as extra: *Did you add the tax on to the total?*

add to to increase: *Don't add to our difficulties by misbehaving.*

add up to add together: *Add up your score.*

add up to to make a total of: *The bill adds up to £55.*

addict /'ædɪkt/ *n* a person who has become dependent on something, especially drugs.

ad'dicted *adj* dependent on a drug etc: *He is addicted to alcohol.* **ad'diction** *n*.

ad'dictive *adj* habit-forming: *Some medicines, like tranquillizers, contain addictive drugs.*

addition /ə'dɪʃən/ *n* **1** the process of adding. **2** something added: *A baby is a welcome addition to a family.*

in addition (to) as well (as): *She is studying chemistry in addition to maths and physics.*

ad'ditional *adj* extra. **ad'ditionally** *adv*.

additive /ə'dɪtɪv/ *n* a substance that is added in small amounts, especially to food to improve it or to make it keep fresh longer: *This natural yoghurt is free from additives.*

address /ə'dres/ *v* **1** to put a name and address on a letter etc: *Address the parcel clearly.* **2** to speak to someone: *to address someone politely.* — *n* **1** the name of the house, street, town etc where a person lives: *His address is 30 Main St, Edinburgh.* **2** a speech.

adept /'ædɛpt/ *adj* very clever: *He's adept at keeping his balance.*

adequate /'ædɪkwət/ *adj* **1** sufficient; enough. **2** satisfactory; good enough. **'adequately** *adv*.

The opposite of **adequate** is **inadequate**.

adhere /ə'dhɪə(r)/ *v* to stick: *This stamp won't adhere to the envelope.*

adhesion /ə'dhɪʒən/ *n* sticking; adhering.

ad'hesive *adj* able to adhere; sticky: *adhesive tape.* — *n* glue: *Use a strong adhesive to mend the plate.*

adjacent /ə'dʒeɪʃənt/ *adj* side by side; next to: *We had adjacent rooms in the hotel; Their house is adjacent to ours.*

adjective /'ædʒektɪv/ *n* a word which describes something: *a red flower; air which is cool.*

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/ *v* to be next to or joined to something.

ad'joining *adj*: *the adjoining room.*

ad'journal /ə'dʒɜːnl/ *v* to stop a meeting or conference, intending to continue it at another time or place: *The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday.* **ad'journalment** *n*.

adjudicate /ə'dʒʊdɪkeɪt/ *v* to be a judge in a competition or argument.

ad'judicator *n* a competition judge.

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/ *v* **1** to get used to: *He soon adjusted to his new way of life.* **2** to correct or alter a piece of machinery etc: *He adjusted the hands of the clock.*

ad'justable *adj* able to be adjusted.

ad'justment *n*.

ad-lib /əd'lib/ *v* to say something not prepared in advance: *She had to ad-lib when she forgot her lines in the play.*

ad lib *adv*: *She had no notes, but spoke ad lib for thirty minutes.*

administer /əd'mɪnɪstə(r)/ *v* **1** to govern or manage. **2** to carry out a law etc. **3** to give medicine, help etc.

admini'stration *n* **1** management: *the administration of the hospital.* **2** the government of a country etc. **ad'ministrative** *adj*.

ad'ministrator *n*.

admirable /'ædmərəbəl/ *adj* extremely good.

'admirably *adv*.

admiral /'ædmərəl/ *n* the commander of a navy.

admire /əd'maɪə(r)/ *v* **1** to look at something with great pleasure; to say that you like something very much: *They were all admiring his new car.* **2** to have a very high opinion of something or someone: *I admire John's courage; I admire him for being so brave.*

admi'ration *n*: *They were filled with admiration at the team's performance.*

ad'mirer *n* a person who admires someone or something.

ad'miring *adj*: *an admiring look.* **ad'miringly** *adv*.

admission /əd'mɪʃən/ *n* **1** being allowed to go in: *We paid £2.50 for admission to the football ground.* **2** agreeing that something is true: *owning up; an admission of guilt.*

admission and **admittance** both mean permission to enter, but you pay for **admission** to a public place such as a cinema, and you gain **admittance** to a private place such as a house.

admit /əd'mɪt/ *v* **1** to allow to enter. *This ticket admits one person.* **2** to agree that something is true: to own up: *He admitted that he had told a lie.*

ad'mittedly *adv* it must be admitted: *Admittedly, we don't know all the facts yet.*

admitting, admitted and **admittedly** are spelt with two ts.

ad'mittance *n* permission to enter: *The notice said 'No admittance'.*

See **admission**.

adolescent /ədə'lesənt/ *adj* in the part of your life between childhood and adulthood. — *n* a person at this stage of life. **ado'lescence** *n*.

adopt /ə'dɒpt/ *v* **1** to take a child of other

parents as your own: *They decided to adopt a baby girl.* **2** to take and use something as your own: *He adopted his friend's ideas.*

adoption *n.*

adore /ə'dɔ:(r)/ *v* **1** to love or like very much: *He adores his children.* **2** to worship.

adorable *adj.* an adorable little baby.

adoration *n.* worship or great love.

adorn /ə'dɔ:n/ *v* to make beautiful, with decorations or with jewellery: *The statue was adorned with gold rings and bracelets.*

adornment *n.*

adrenalin /ə'drenəlɪn/ *n* a substance that is made inside your body, and that makes your heart beat faster and gives you more energy: *Your body produces adrenalin when you are frightened or excited.*

adrift /ə'drɪf/ *adj.*, *adv* drifting; floating: *He untied the rope and set the boat adrift.*

adult /'ædʌlt/ or /ə'dʌlt/ *adj* **1** fully grown; an adult gorilla. **2** sensible; grown-up: *adult behaviour.* — *n* a fully grown human being: *That film is suitable only for adults.*

adultery /ə'dʌltəri/ *n* being unfaithful to your wife or husband.

advance /əd'vɑ:ns/ *v* **1** to move forward; to progress: *The army advanced towards the town; Our plans are advancing well.* **2** to supply someone with money that they need, which they will be able to pay back later: *The bank will advance you £500.* — *n* **1** movement forward; progress. **2** a payment made before the normal time. — *adj* **1** made etc before the usual time: *an advance payment.* **2** made beforehand: *an advance booking for two theatre seats.*

advanced *adj* having made a lot of progress; at a high level: *She teaches the advanced students; an advanced computer course.*

in advance beforehand; earlier: *Can you pay me in advance?*

advantage /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ/ *n* a gain or benefit: *What are the advantages of air travel?*

advantageous /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒəs/ *adj* giving an advantage; good; useful.

have an advantage over: *As she could already speak French, she had an advantage over the others in the French class.*

take advantage of **1** to make the best use of something, such as a chance or opportunity. **2** to use unfairly.

advent /'ædvənt/ *n* the invention or first appearance of something: *Life has changed greatly since the advent of electric light.*

adventure /əd'ventʃə(r)/ *n* something exciting

that you do or that happens to you; a great experience: *He wrote a book about his adventures in the Antarctic.*

adventurer *n* a person who is always looking for adventures.

adventurous *adj* liking adventures.

adverb /'advɜ:b/ *n* a word used to describe a verb or an adjective: *He looked carefully in the box, and found a very small key.* **adverbial** *adj.*

adversary /'ædvəsəri/ *n* an opponent: *They summoned up the courage to face their adversaries; He'll be playing against his old adversary in the next round of the competition.*

adverse /'advɜ:sl/ *adj* bad: *Smoking by parents could have an adverse effect on their children's health.* **adversely** *adv.*

adversity *n* trouble; bad luck; something that causes difficulty: *He always remains cheerful in spite of adversity; The athlete injured her ankle while training for the race and had various other adversities to overcome.*

advert /'advɜ:t/ short for advertisement.

advertise /'advɜ:tɪz/ *v* to make something known to a lot of people: *The time and place for the meeting will be advertised in the newspaper.*

advertisement /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt/ *n* a short film, newspaper announcement, poster etc making something known, especially in order to persuade people to buy it: *an advertisement for toothpaste on television; She replied to my advertisement for a secretary.*

'advertising *n* making advertisements.

advertise /'advɜ:tɪz/ and **advertising** /'advɜ:tɪzɪŋ/ but **advertisement** /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt/ not /'advɜ:tɪzmənt/.

advice /əd'vaɪs/ *n* helpful suggestions to a person about what he should do: *Let me give you a piece of advice.*

advise /əd'vaɪz/ *v* **1** to give advice to someone: *My teacher advises me to work harder.* **2** to inform; to tell.

advisable *adj* wise; sensible: *It is not advisable to swim after a meal.*

adviser or **advisor** *n* a person who advises. **advisory** *adj* giving advice.

advice is a noun and never used in the plural: *a piece of advice; some advice.*

advise is a verb: *He advises us not to go.*

advocate *v* /'advəkeɪt/ to speak in favour of something; to recommend: *He advocated*

the provision of more sports centres. — *n* /'advəkət/ **1** someone who supports a plan, an idea etc: *She has always been an advocate of changes to English spelling, to make it easier to learn.* **2** a lawyer who speaks in defence of a person who is being tried in court.

aerial /'eəriəl/ *n* a construction of metal rods that can send or receive radio waves etc: *a television aerial.* — *adj* in or from the air: *aerial photographs.*

aerobatics /'eərə'batiks/ *n plural* difficult and dangerous movements made in an aeroplane, such as flying upside down.

aerobics /'eə'roʊbiks/ *n* exercises that you do usually to music, to make yourself fit: *Mrs Smith does aerobics in a gymnasium twice a week; an aerobics class.*

aerodrome /'eərə'drəʊm/ *n* an airport, especially one for private aircraft.

aerodynamics /'eərədaɪ'namiks/ *n* the study of how objects move through the air. **aerodynamic** *adj.*

aeronautics /'eərə'nɔ:tiks/ *n* the study of the design and flight of aircraft.

aeroplane /'eərəpleɪn/ *n* a machine for flying which is heavier than air and has wings.

See in.

aerosol /'eərəsɒl/ *n* a metal container in which a liquid, such as a perfume, is kept under pressure and released as a fine spray: *An aerosol can explode if it gets too hot.*

aerospace /'eərəspeɪs/ *n* the earth's atmosphere and outer space beyond it.

aesthetic /'i:z'θetɪk/ *adj* having to do with enjoying art and beauty.

aesthetically *adv:* *aesthetically pleasing.*

afar /ə'fɑ:(r)/ *adv* from, at or to a distance away: *They travelled from afar; the thunderous roar could be heard from afar.*

affair /ə'feə(r)/ **n** 1 happenings which are connected with a particular person or thing: *the affair of the missing schoolboy; a sad affair.* **2** business; concern: *financial affairs; What I spend my money on is my own affair.* **3** a love relationship between two people who are not husband and wife.

affect /ə'fekt/ **v** **1** to have an influence on something, or change it in some way: *What you eat affects your health.* **2** to make you feel very sad or angry etc: *She was deeply affected by the sight of the starving children.*

affect, verb: *How will this drug affect me?*

effect, noun: *What effect will this drug have on me?*

affection /ə'fekʃən/ *n* liking; fondness: *I have great affection for her.*

affectionate *adj* having or showing affection: *an affectionate daughter.* **affectionately** *adv.*

affirm /ə'fɜ:m/ **v** to state that something is true. **affirmation** *n.*

affirmative *adj* expressing agreement. — *n.*

affix /ə'fiks/ **v** to attach one thing to another: *Affix the stamp to the envelope.*

afflict /ə'flikt/ **v** to cause someone a lot of pain or suffering: *She is often afflicted with headaches; afflicted by grief.*

affliction *n* suffering; something that causes suffering: *Is blindness a worse affliction than deafness?*

affluent /ə'flʊənt/ *adj* rich; wealthy: *He comes from an affluent family and does not have to work.* **affluence** *n.*

afford /ə'fɔ:d/ **v** **1** to be able to spend money, time etc on or for something: *We can't afford to take a holiday.* **2** to be able to do something without trouble, difficulty etc: *Shopkeepers can't afford to be unfriendly to customers.*

affordable *adj:* *an affordable car.*

affront /ə'frʌnt/ *n* an insult. — **v** to hurt or insult someone: *She was affronted by their comments.*

afloat /ə'fləʊt/ *adj* floating.

afraid /ə'freɪd/ *adj* **1** frightened of a person, thing etc: *The child is not afraid of the dark; She was afraid to go; He was afraid of making a mistake.* **2** worried: *She began to run because she was afraid that she would be late; He was afraid of upsetting his mother.* **3** sorry: *I'm afraid I don't agree with you.*

Before a noun, use **frightened** instead of **afraid**: *a frightened child* (not *an afraid child*). After a noun, you can use **frightened** or **afraid**: *The child was frightened or afraid.*

afresh /ə'freʃ/ *adj* again and usually in a different way: *I need to make so many changes it would be better to start afresh.*

Afro- /ə'froʊ/ *prefix* African: *Afro-African.*

after /ə'ftɜ:(r)/ *prep* **1** later in time or place than something else: *She arrived after me.* **2** following something: *one thing after another; night after night.* **3** behind: *Shut the*